

Black Frog



BLACK FROG is a Diplomacy Zine that emphasizes that Postal Diplomacy is fun! Subscriptions are \$12.00 per 24 issues or for one year--whichever happens last. The publisher is John H. ('Jack') Masters, 25711 North Vista Fairways Drive, Valencia, CA 91355. (805) 259-2811.

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DIPLOMACY is a multi-player war game invented by A.B. Calhamer and presently owned by the Avalon Hill Game Co. At present there are no game openings in Black Frog and none are expected until early 1981.

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ODDS AND ENDS

If you are thinking that the rate of publication of Black Frog has slowed down a bit lately, then you are in for a big shock. Expect to receive four issues (including this one) in the next eight days. This, and number 25 (due to be mailed on November 25th) are regular issues with game adjudications. Between these two, expect to receive two special issues. One of these will be the Black Frog Christmas Gift Catalog, so hold back on your Christmas shopping until you get it.

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The big news of the moment from your pubber is that I am out on strike and walking a picket line. Great Fun! It's the Lockheed Engineers and Scientists that are out on strike. The hourly production workers all settled. The company gave them a three year contract for 7%, 3% and 3% plus full cost of living allowances. A package that will mean at least a 50% increase in the three years. Then, after the hourly contract was settled, they offered us a one-time-only 10% increase with no cost of living. Really left us with little alternative except to strike. It looks like this thing may last quite a while. Oh well, you would all be far more concerned if it was Gary Coughlan on strike instead of me.

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I journeyed to Bakersfield on Saturday to take in Dan Kuszynski's BirthdayCon. Bill Schiwautz stopped by and then went up with me and two of my sons. Unfortunately this came at a bad time for me and I had to come back early Saturday evening. Thus didn't get in much gaming. Played one game of "gunboat" Diplomacy, and didn't even play it out to conclusion. Dan was showing everybody

Swashbuckler, which is a fun game of sorts, but certainly no Diplomacy. Also played a game of Dune, Cosmic Encounter, and a couple of Nuclear War. By leaving early I was spared having to play Dan's variant, Vacation Diplomacy; but I am playing a game of it by mail in Murd'ring Ministers. Al Rodriguez was there and kept trying to get up a game of Kingmaker, but had no takers. Al has a thing about six player Kingmaker games; but the best advice I can give is "avoid getting into one with him." One of the highlights of the day was a phone call from Jennifer King. Other Black Froggers there included Ron Brown and Kelly Tilley. It was fun Dan, and I thank you. Do it again some time.

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The reason I had to leave Bakersfield early was my wife's volleyball team. She coaches a highschool team and they won the conference championship (for the second year in a row). They wound up the 7th ranked team in southern California at seasons end--and there are a lot of teams in southern California. Saturday night they were playing in the second round (they won the first round) of the all Southern California championship tournament. I rushed back from Bakersfield (it's about 70 miles) leaving at 5:20 and getting home at 6:30. We dropped off Bill, picked up a map and rushed off for Carpenteria (where the game was held) about 75 miles in another direction. Arrived at 7:45 about 15 minutes late. It was a hard fought match, going three games but ultimately her team lost; 10-15; 15-9 and 14-16. It's all over for another year.

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Mike Hartman is now a father! His daughter, whom he has named Laura, was born on October 28th. Congratulations Mike!

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The fifth Black Frog Diplomacy Game, V.I.P., has started. It was somewhat difficult to fill the game, which was somewhat surprising as I had thought that there was more demand for a game from Black Frog subbers. It will be quite a while before another game of regular Diplomacy opens in Black Frog. I will run a variant game of Jimmu, if six subbers express an interest. Players in the new game, V.I.P., are not eligible for the upcoming Black Frog "trophy" or "fifth horseman" game. This is the game where the "best Austria", "best England" and so on from the first four Black Frog games will compete in a fifth game for the coveted Black Frog TROPHY!

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There is only a little space at the bottom of this page so I am putting in what is called filler.



KATHY BYRNE!

John Caruso sent in these two portraits which show, he says, a couple of Kathy's moods.

John would have published these in Whitestonia, but that zine is not quite ready for the higher art forms!

80HR

WAR

F'02

Well, Vern nobody ever said
that AUSTRIA was easy to play

Aust (Schaller): A BOH-Vie; A TRI (s) A Boh-Vie; F ALB
(s) A Tri; A SER-Bud.

Engl (Perlmutter): A NWY-Stp; F BAR (s) A Nwy-Stp; F NWN-
Nwy; F Nth-LON.

Fran (Carson): A Pic-WAL; F ENG (c) A Pic-Wal; F Mao-
IRI; A BUR (h); A SPA (h).

Germ (Carter): A HOL (h); A MUN (h); F Den-NTH;
F HEL (s) F Den-Nth; A Kie-DEN.

Ital (Hanson): A VIE-Tri; A VEN (s) A Vie-Tri; A Rom-
APU; F Tun-ION.

Russ (Tilley): A War-UKR; A SEV (h); A STP-Nwy;
F SWE (s) A Stp-Nwy; A GAL-Bud; F RUM
(s) Turkish A Con-Bul.

Turk (Burnett): F Ank-BLA; A Con-BUL; A GRE (s) A Con-
Bul; F AEG (s) A Gre.

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NOTES: There were two minor errors in the Spring 1902
adjudications. There were no problems from these, thus
no delay, but please note. (1.) Germany ordered his
A Holland to hold. The order was omitted. (2.) Austria
ordered F Alb-Ion. It was recorded, due to a typograph-
ical error of the GM, as A Alb-Ion.

Spring 1902 orders for Kelly Tilley (Russia) arrived
the day after the deadline. They were mailed in plenty
of time (normally) to have been received by the deadline,
but didn't make it.

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PRESS:

GANDALF to MERRY: He cannot be both counsellor and tyr-
ant. When the plot is ripe it remains no longer
secret.

LONDON to PARIS: So this is what I get for standing up
for Anita Bryant eh? Well you and Davey Carter can
just stick together, see if I care.

LONDON to BLACK JACK: OK, OK here's some press.

MERION: The facts. The book is Mona Lisas, which is compiled by Mary Rose Storey. It gives the history of the Mona Lisa and all the weird spinoffs in pop art it created. I sent Jack a clipping on it.

BLACK JACK: It sounds like you're on to something Pearl baby!

LONDON to BERLIN: Are your arms broken or something? I never write first. You write me then I'll write you. Simple. All you Trudeau //sic!// supporters are alike.

LONDON to MIKE MILLS: Did you hear the one about the Irishman who got so drunk he kissed his wife and beat the Pope's foot with a shovel. Oh yeah that's right, you're the one that told me that one.

LONDON: Last night I had Lee Kendter Sr., Kathy Byrne, John Caruso, Vern Schaller, Dick Martin, Rod Walker and John Boardman over to my house to play test Schallers new variant "Castration Diplomacy". For obvious reasons, Kathy GM'ed. We had a lot of fun. I won with Rod and the two Johns coming out the big losers (let me rephrase that ...). Anyway, Vern hopes to get a PEM version out soon. Rod don't worry, they can do wonders with plastics now 'a days.

EDINBURGH to HOBBY: 46 ballots giving VOD a zero, and Linsey a -1 on the Leeder poll. I didn't get a chance to mail them with the rest.. Make offer.

HERR DOKTOR to REP. PERLMUTTER: How'd the election go Dave? I hope better than the game you're in now. Bob Dylan was never one of my favorites. Bet you're an Englebert Humperdink fan too!

BLACK JACK: I'll bet he is a Kate Smith fan.

AUSTRIA to RUSSIA: I hope you're with me because if you're not, then that means you're against me. Other great insights to follow.

GERMANY to RUSSIA: Sorry, but I didn't understand your last letter. You'll have to use something other than l's or O's to type with.

BLACK JACK: I once saw a kid who could type with his feet.

ELROND to PERLMUTTER: 'You will hear today all that you need in order to understand the purposes of the enemy. There is naught that you can do, other than resist,

with hope or without it You will learn that your trouble is but part of the trouble of the Western World.'

1902 Supply Center Chart:

| | | | | |
|----------|---------------------------------|---|----------|----|
| AUSTRIA: | Tri, Bud, Ser, Wle | 3 | disband | .1 |
| ENGLAND: | Home, Nwy | 4 | .. even | .. |
| FRANCE: | Home, Bel, Por, SPA | 6 | ..build | .1 |
| GERMANY: | Home, Den, Hol | 5 | .. even | .. |
| ITALY: | Home, Tun, VIE | 5 | ..build | .1 |
| RUSSIA: | Home, Swe, Rum | 6 | .. even | .. |
| TURKEY: | Home, Bul, GRE | 5 | ..build | .1 |
| NEUTRAL: | Lte , Spp | 0 |out | |

Winter 1902 orders are due on Tuesday November 25th at 12:00 noon PST.

If you're looking ahead, Spring 1903 orders will be due on Tuesday December 16th at 12:00 noon PST.

It is getting close to Christmas and the postal service tends to get slow this time of year--so be sure to get your orders in the mail in plenty of time.



"Well, if you think the weather in your area was bad today, be happy you don't live in California . . ."

8 HS

famine

F'02

Austria loses army but not supply center. Doesn't anybody like England?

Aust (Lew): A Bul-Ser/d/retreat OTB; A BUD (S)
Bul-Ser; A VIE (S) A Bud; F Alb-TRI
F GRE (H).

Engl (Colombo) F NTH-Hol; A Bel (S) F Nth-Hol/d/re-
treat OTB; F Eng-Nth/d/retreat Lon,
Wal, Iri or OTB; F NWN-Nwy.

Fran (Albrecht) F Bre-ENG; F MAO (S) F Bre-Eng; A
Pic-BEL; A BUR (S) A Pic-Bel; F GAS (H).

Germ (Kuszynski) F NWY (S) Russian F Bar-Nwn/nso/; A DEN
(H); F KIE (S) A Hol; A HOL (s) French
A Pic-Bel; A Mun-RUH.

Ital (de Vries) F Ion-Aeg; A Ven-TYR; A TUN (H); F EAS
(S) F Ion-Aeg.

Russ (King) F Stp(nc)-Bar/nsu/; F BAR (H)/unordered/;
F SWE (S) German F Nwy; A RUM-Ser; A GAL-
Bud; F SEV-Rum; A Mos-UKR.

Turk (Hart) (Summer 1902: A Bul retreats to CON)
 A Con-BUL; F BLA (S) A Con-Bul; A SMY
 (H); F Aeg-Gre/d/retreat Con, OTB.

NOTES: A new address for Wietze A. de Vries:

5436 Montgomery Sq. Dr.
 Kettering, OHIO 45440

PRESS:

BULGARIA: The Bulgarian people again welcome the proud and fierce Turkish troops.

CONSTANTINOPLE: The Turks welcome the assistance of the Russian people in their fight against the Austrian barbarians who practice double speak and double deal.

AUSTRIA: Shifting alliances in the Balkans? Why of course not! This was all planned. Ha Ha, fooled you. //I'm sure it was all planned, but who did the planning?//

VIENNA: The Austrian government announces that technological advances in our fair country have produced a sophisticated nuclear bomb which can detect enemy attacks. If any enemy unit attacks an Austrian home centre, the bomb will trigger and blow up the world. //Centre Mark? Was that a typo or has Alaska become a part of the Commonwealth along with Canada?//

BLACK JACK: Will the rest of you players please take heed to the Austrian announcement above and limit your attacks to Serbia and Greece? I'm still doing well in a couple of my games and don't want the world to come to an end just yet.

SARDINIA: Will all players interested in entering the "Guess who Jennifer King will stab next" contest, please submit their applications to this address. We are especially interested in those of German heritage.

HEART to BLACK JACK: Are the Balkans shifting in alliances? //Maybe, but maybe they have already shifted, and maybe not, but just maybe Mark Lew planned the whole thing. What do you think?//

ANONYMOUS: Kathy who?

NWA: The NWA assures the sovereignty of Russia over Ankara.

BLACK JACK: How many of you receive Ron Brown's zine Murd'ring Ministers? Ron recently published an interesting strategy article entitled "The Shifting Alliances in the Balkans Opening Gambit for Austria."

ITALY: My correspondence has been far and few between due to job hunting and the moving arrangements. It will pick up next season when I'm settled in.

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1902 Supply Center Chart:

| | | |
|----------|---------------------------|----------------|
| AUSTRIA: | Home, Ser, Gre | 4, build ... 1 |
| | (no room to build) | |
| ENGLAND: | Home, | 3, even |
| FRANCE: | Home, Spa, Por, BEL | 6, build1 |
| GERMANY: | Home, Hol, Den, NWY | 6, build1 |
| ITALY: | Home, Tun | 4, even |
| RUSSIA: | Home, Swe, Rum | 6, even |
| TURKEY: | Home, Bul | 4, even |
| | (unless F Aeg r OTB, then | build1) |
| NEUTRAL | N/A | 0 out |

1980HS Continued

Winter 1902 builds (along with Autumn 1902 retreats) are due on December 4th, 1980 at 12:00 noon PST. There is a two day postal holiday in this time frame, so don't delay on sending these orders in.

If you are looking ahead, Spring 1903 orders will be due on Tuesday December 16th at 12:00 noon PST. Don't wait for the winter adjudications to start Diplomacy for the spring season!

It is getting close to Christmas and the postal service tends to be very slow at this time of year--so be sure to give your orders and other correspondence plenty of time to reach the destination.

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Bohu Pestilence

s'02

Very aggressive Italian play; attacks Turkey and threatens France.

Note! Austria sent in a build of a nuke silo in Vienna for winter 1901. I overlooked it and did not record it in the orders for that season, but since Herr Doktor has complained, I will go ahead and allow the build. Since this is 1902 and nuclear warheads aren't scheduled to be invented until the mid-1940's, it seems rather unlikely that he will find any use for his silo--but that remains to be seen. Now for the Spring 1902 orders:

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Aust (Giddings): | A Gre-SER; A BUD (s) A Gre-Ser; <u>F ALB-Tri</u> ; Nuke Silo Vienna (H)/unordered/. |
| Engl (Townsend): | F Nth-SKA; F Lon-NTH; A YOR (H); F NWY (H). |
| Fran (Gallagher): | F Por-SPA(sc); A Spa-MAR; A Mar-BUR; A PAR (s) A Mar-Bur; <u>A BRE-Pic</u> ; <u>A Mun (H)</u> /d/ retreat Boh, Tyr, Ruh, OTB. |
| Germ (Rodriguez): | F Hol-HEL; A Ber-MUN; A KIE (s) A Ber-Mun; <u>A BEL-Pic</u> . |
| Ital (Schwartz): | A Ven-PIE; <u>A TRI-Ser</u> ; A Ser-BUL; F AEG (s) A Ser-Bul; F Nap-ION. |
| Russ (Conner): | F Swe-BAL; A Stp-FIN; A Mos-STP; A War- |

1980HU Continued

SIL; A Rum-GAL; F Sev-RUM.
(all Russian units move--amazing!)

Turk (Hartman): F Smy-EAS; A Con-SMY; F Ank-CON; A Bul-GRE.

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Fall 1902 orders are due on December 16th, 1980 at 12:00 noon PST. It is getting close to Christmas and the postal service tends to be very slow this time of year--so be sure to give your orders and other correspondence plenty of time to reach the destination.
.....

PRESS:

ANKARA to WORLD: The Sultan announces the birth of his first heir--Sultana Laura. In honor of her birth the Sultan is asking for alliances with all the great powers.

BLACK JACK: Since the Sultan is rumored to have a harem of over 450 wives, concubines and other whores, the World finds it amazing for him to be announcing the birth of his first heir!

...Just kidding Mike, I am sure that all Pestilence players and other BF subbers will join me in extending congratulations for the birth of your daughter. As to alliances well

CHANNEL ISLANDS: Something fishy going on here! All naval forces in the area are invited to inspect the local cannery, if they can. If they can't, then they can can-can. Uncanny!

ST PETERSBURG to PARIS: Who, me? The model of restraint?
Au contraire!

SEVASTOPOL to ANKARA: Eastward ho?

.....

NOTED IN PASSING

Why do they call it ftf (meaning face-to-face), when I invariably end up with a knife in my back?

80kg

V.I.P.

start

Very Important Player Game gets underway!

A special game-start announcement for this game went out about a week ago, to the seven players in the game. Please let me know right away if you didn't get one.

The Boardman number assigned for this game is 1980KJ. Please refer to the game by this number or as "V.I.P." in any correspondence with the gamemaster.

The Field:

| | |
|----------|-----------------|
| Austria: | BOB OLSEN |
| England: | BERNARD SAMPSON |
| France: | RON BROWN |
| Germany: | DAVE PILANT |
| Italy: | TOM MAINARDI |
| Russia: | ALLEN WELLS |
| Turkey: | BOB ARNETT |

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Spring 1901 orders are due December 16th, 1980 at 12:00 noon PST.

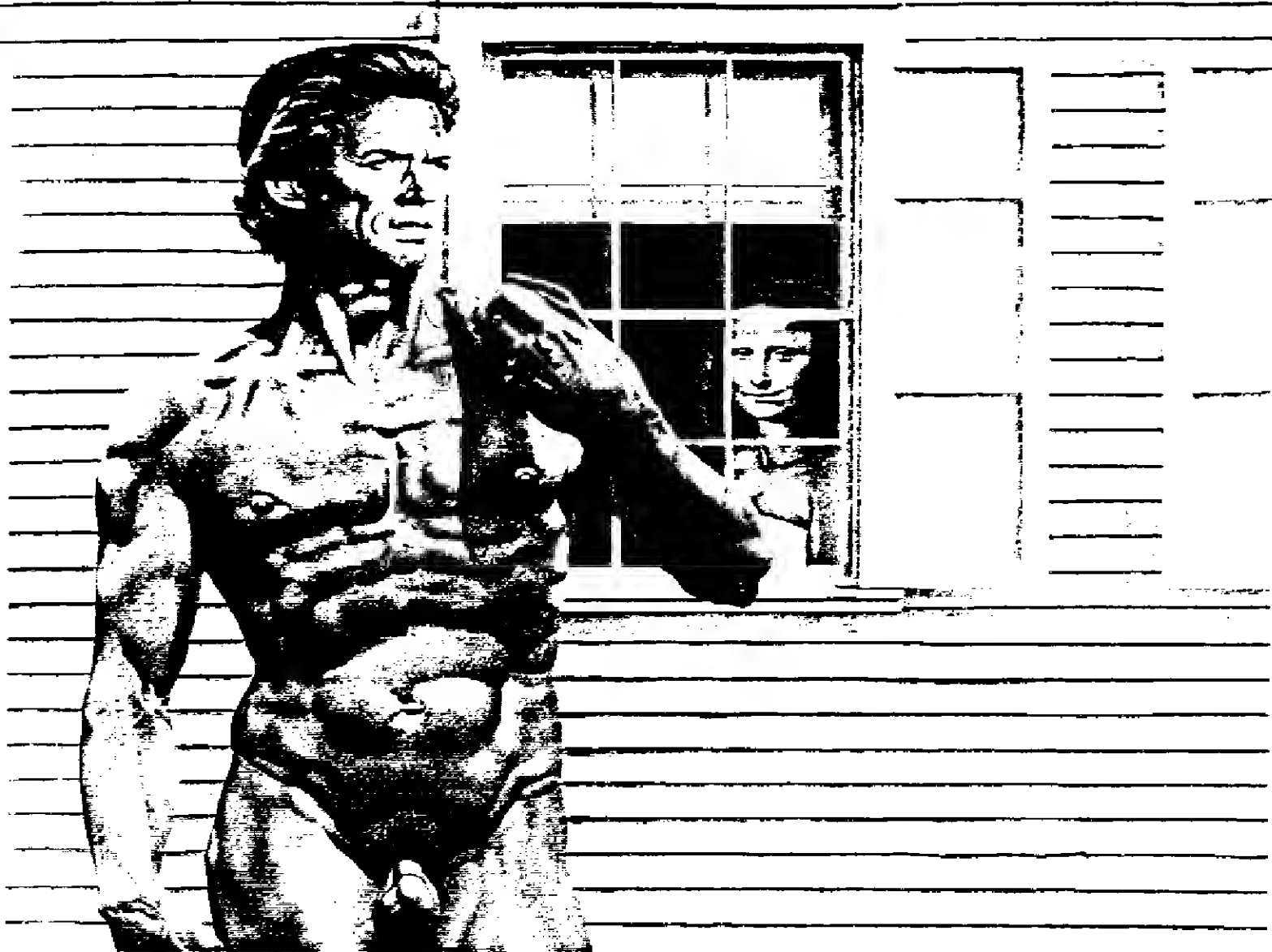
.....
some early press

BUDAPEST to BLACK JACK: I'm most disappointed that you chose to call this game "VIP". For one thing Arnett is going to feel left out. For another, you had a great chance to fill out the roster with the Fifth Horseman. The sequence should have gone: War; Famine; Pestilence; Death; Masters.

BLACK JACK to BUDAPEST: You missed the early issue of BF that explained the Four Horsemen sequence. (I'll send you a xerox copy. The Fifth Horsemen is "Diplomacy" and this will be the name of the "fifth" game where the champions from "War", "Famine", "Pestilence", and "Death" square off to compete for the "Black Frog Trophy."

AUSTRIA to GARY COUGHLAN: No, no, Jack, I was just teasing. No, really, Jack. Please, Jack, stop crying like that.

BLACK JACK to AUSTRIA: Gary Coughlan had a chance to be in this game but turned it down. Little does he know, but for this very reason, I am going to blast his Turkish position in 1979KG (otherwise known as R3).



DAVE "NAKED" PERLMUTTER

Dave himself sent in this self portrait for exclusive publication in Black Frog.

After writing the story "Naked Came the G" for VoD, about six months ago, Dave has been trying to promote the nickname "naked" for himself. Publication of this portrait should help.

Dave did not state who the lady in the window was. Somehow she looks vaguely familiar, however.

ADDITIONAL 1980HU PESTILENCE PRESS

This is additional 80HU press, which through an oversight on my part was not included at the proper spot. Sorry Herr Doktor!

VIENNA to ROME: Stab me once, shame on you. Stab me twice, shame on Herr Doktor. Stick it in your ear Nortz! Do your folks know you're Catholic? No more lochs and bagels for you Schwartz!

VIENNA to GM: What happened to the nuke silo to be built here? //See note at start of game, Herr Doktor; you have it--just what do you plan on doing with it?// What's everyone got against dentists nowadays? I even sent Perlmutter a complimentary toothbrush the other day to get him off my back. What kind of pay offs do the rest of you want? (Cash is out of the question. How about dental floss?) //How about some gold crowns?//

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MORE ODDS AND ENDS

New Black Frog house rules have been drawn up. They have already gone out to the players in V.I.P. I had intended on including them in this issue of Black Frog, but there will not be room. They will go in issue #25 next week and will go into effect seven days after mailing. There are no real changes, for the most part only clarification of the older set of rules that were rather vague in some areas.

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I have just received a sample of Jihad, a relatively new zine by Glenn Overby, 23096 Tawas, Hazel Park, MI 48030. Jihad is a neat little product with a pleasing digest type of format. It features Diplomacy and other war games. Issued monthly at a rate of \$6.00 for 12 issues. Worth taking a look at.

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Supernova, which is the name of the Novice Packet of postal Diplomacy is out. Copies are available from Bruce Linsey, Bldg 11, Apt. 21, Leisureville, Watervliet, New York 12189 for 75¢. Thirty-six pages and rather well done with quite a few authors contributing, Supernova should be especially valuable to the novice, for which it was intended, but also of interest and useful to everyone.

The "novice packet" or, to be more precise "Bruce Linsey" has been a rather controversial topic lately. Bruce has been having a hobby feud with John Caruso and threatened to use the "novice packet" to warn players against John as a gamemaster. This action by Bruce was ill advised and has been apologized for by Bruce. Still it has cast some clouds over the novice packet.

Whatever faults Bruce may have, he is certainly many cuts above Craig Reges (the scoundrel who was responsible for the previous novice packet) and the controversy should not cloud the fact that Supernova is well done, and is needed by the hobby, and the hobby owes Bruce a debt of gratitude for putting it out.

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I understand that the Linsey/Caruso feud may be cooling off a bit at present. I hope so, the feud is not good for the hobby. Can Gary Coughlan take any credit for being the peacemaker in this matter?

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If all goes well, this issue of Black Frog will contain a couple of more color photos from the stockpile that I have been accumulating. You may partially thank James Townsend. Jim recently sent \$20.00 with this note: "I apologize profusely for being so slow in sending you this check as a contribution toward the great effort you're making regarding Black Frog. If my other contribution should ever arrive you can put that towards publishing more pictures of Kathy Byrne." Thank you Jim, letters like yours are the best. Your first letter never did show up, but I am applying your contribution towards the publication of the pictures of Kathy in this issue.

.....

Has everybody seen this "hit" list that Bob Arnett has been circulating? Bob has sent out a list of the twenty (or so he says) top rated Diplomacy players with the admonition for everybody to strike down the "top 20". Ratings are ruining the hobby says Bob, so do yourself, and everybody else a good turn, by ganging up on these top 20 players and destroying their ratings.

Well, I thought it was rather strange that Bob should list the top 20. Why not the top 25 or the top 30? Or even the top 21. So I checked into this. I was rather surprised to find that the 21st name on the list he was pulling these names off of was none other than BOB ARNETT.

Pretty sneaky Bob! Did you really think that the rest of us would fall for it and knock off the top 20 so that number 21 could move to the top?

John H. Masters
25711 No. Vista Fwys. Dr.
Valencia, CA 91355

- () Sample
- () Please plug
- () See page _____

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